

Infant feeding is one of the most urgent problems. There is great need for fresh milk and good canned milk. Many families have had their cattle drowned or driven away, and the large infant population will require especial nutritional care.

Perhaps the greatest problem from the public health standpoint will be the tremendously increased opportunity for the breeding of mosquitoes, and the consequent spread of malaria. The flooded district lies entirely in the malaria belt. With the soil saturated by weeks of rain, many thousands of pools of stagnant water will remain for weeks, and a veritable plague of mosquitoes may be predicted. Quinine in large quantities must be supplied throughout this area. Fortunately, all of the states affected have well organized boards of health with fairly liberal appropriations, and doubtless emergency funds will also be available.

It will be remembered that a call was made asking for \$5,000,000 for the American Red Cross, and that the President has recently issued another appeal asking that this sum be doubled. Subsequently, new and unexpected breaks occurred in the levees and much additional territory has been flooded, adding to the number of those requiring help approximately 150,000 more than estimated at the time of the second appeal.

There can be no question that the American people will respond, but many will ask why our government, which was quick to give millions at the time of the earthquake in Japan, does not take the flood situation in hand as a governmental affair. We hope that such queries, which in our opinion are entirely justified, will not cause anyone to hold back their donations. We can always satisfy ourselves by remembering that Red Cross donations offer an outlet for private beneficence which might be suppressed if the government bore all of the expenses. Certainly no public disaster has occurred within the recollection of anyone now reading this JOURNAL which carried a stronger appeal to the generosity of all. "*Bis dat qui cito dat.*"

VICTOR BABES

1854-1926

THE DEATH of Victor Babes in December, 1926, has removed one of the best known workers in pathology and bacteriology. He was born in Vienna, but received much of his education in Paris, where in conjunction with Cornil, in 1886, he published one of the first textbooks on bacteriology. Much of his work was done at the Pasteur Institute, where in conjunction with Lepp, working on rabies, he demonstrated, apparently for the first time in the world, the protective value of the serum from an immunized animal.

He gave much attention to rabies, and demonstrated the vascular tubercle, which he believed to be specific to that disease. When Negri bodies were discovered he devoted much time to their study. While recognizing their diagnostic value, he believed they were protective reactions on the part of the cells against the parasite, which was much smaller, and demonstrable by special stains. He discovered the parasite of Texas fever, and the genus to which it belongs carries his name as *Babesia*. He wrote extensively on leprosy and many other diseases.

He was for many years Professor of Pathology in the University of Bucharest, and Director of the Antirabic Institute of Roumania.